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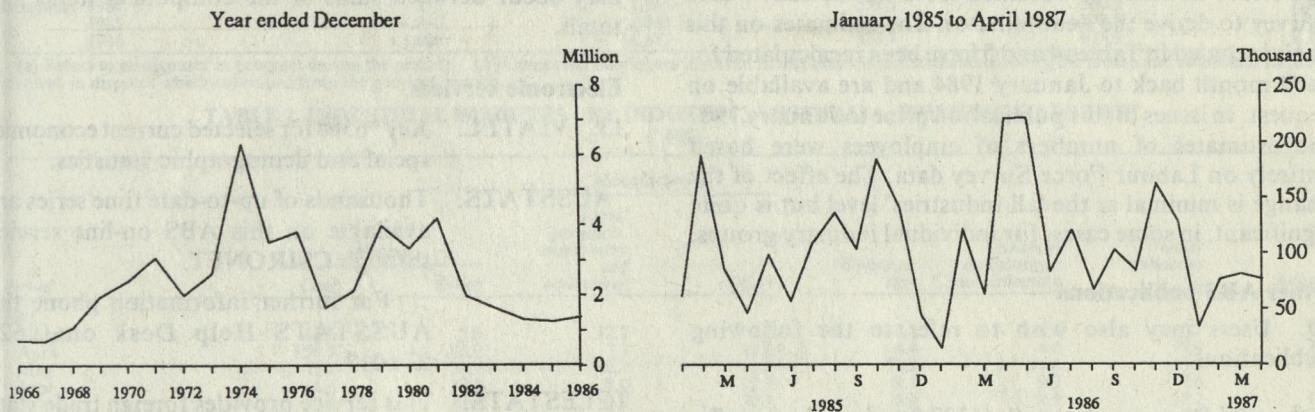
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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1987

PHONE INQUIRIES • *about these statistics*—contact Mr C. Chan on Canberra (062) 52 6561 or any ABS State office.
• *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627, 52 5402, 52 6007 or any ABS State office.

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MAIN FEATURES WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



In April 1987, there were 76,500 working days lost by 63,900 employees in 137 disputes, compared with 81,500 working days lost by 63,600 workers in 166 disputes in March 1987.

In the 12 months ended April 1987, 1,238,900 working days were lost compared with 1,297,100 and 1,321,900 working days lost in the 12 months ended April 1986 and April 1985 respectively

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The statistics relate to disputes which have occurred in all industries and involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

i. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Surveys.

Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households obtained from the Labour Force Survey to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987 the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

Labour Statistics, Australia, 1985 (6101.0)

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0)—issued quarterly

11. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia (1101.0)*. The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice (1105.0)* which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

12. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Electronic services

13. VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

IAN CASTLES

Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

| Period | Number of disputes | | Employees involved ('000) | | Working days lost ('000) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| | Commenced in period | Total(a) | Newly involved(b) | Total(a) | |
| 1986 | | | | | |
| March | 142 | 158 | 26.9 | 43.1 | 63.1 |
| April | 111 | 131 | 33.6 | 52.9 | 221.1 |
| May | 162 | 178 | 236.1 | 240.2 | 221.8 |
| June | 118 | 130 | 30.3 | 35.2 | 83.5 |
| July | 194 | 208 | 75.4 | 80.8 | 119.9 |
| August | 132 | 147 | 27.6 | 29.6 | 67.3 |
| September | 151 | 171 | 53.9 | 64.1 | 102.7 |
| October | 177 | 195 | 70.6 | 74.6 | 84.2 |
| November | 162 | 185 | 49.0 | 63.3 | 162.2 |
| December | 99 | 124 | 31.9 | 49.0 | 128.8 |
| 1987 | | | | | |
| January | 91 | 95 | 12.8 | 15.1 | 34.2 |
| February | 124 | 140 | 25.9 | 41.7 | 76.3 |
| March | r148 | r166 | r54.8 | r63.6 | r81.5 |
| April | 116 | 137 | 59.9 | 63.9 | 76.5 |
| <i>Twelve months ended—</i> | | | | | |
| April | 1985 | 1,919 | 1,938 | 582.4 | 1,321.9 |
| | 1986 | 1,790 | 1,809 | 512.8 | 1,297.1 |
| | 1987 | 1,674 | 1,690 | 728.0 | 1,238.9 |
| December | 1984 | 1,958 | 1,965 | 551.1 | 1,307.4 |
| | 1985 | 1,830 | 1,845 | 552.6 | 1,256.2 |
| | 1986 | 1,680 | 1,687 | 673.7 | 1,390.7 |

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST
('000)

| Period | Manufacturing | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------|---|-------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mining | | Metal products, machinery and equipment | Other | Construction | Transport and storage; Communication | Other industries (a) | All industries |
| | Coal | Other | | | | | | |
| 1986 | | | | | | | | |
| March | 15.6 | 5.0 | 12.2 | 9.8 | 3.4 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 63.1 |
| April | 150.7 | 22.9 | 7.3 | 11.8 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 19.4 | 221.1 |
| May | 23.1 | 20.7 | 82.2 | 18.9 | 52.2 | 11.6 | 13.1 | 221.8 |
| June | 6.5 | 29.2 | 9.0 | 12.8 | 9.1 | 9.3 | 7.6 | 83.5 |
| July | 17.5 | 28.4 | 9.2 | 30.7 | 6.9 | 9.9 | 17.2 | 119.9 |
| August | 5.3 | 31.6 | 7.0 | 11.0 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 6.6 | 67.3 |
| September | 6.8 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 48.1 | 7.0 | 1.1 | 16.3 | 102.7 |
| October | 18.8 | 2.7 | 19.1 | 18.4 | 3.2 | 1.7 | 20.4 | 84.2 |
| November | 20.1 | 8.3 | 19.4 | 25.5 | 10.0 | 0.8 | 78.2 | 162.2 |
| December | 12.7 | 11.5 | 4.5 | 13.7 | 8.7 | 1.1 | 76.7 | 128.8 |
| 1987 | | | | | | | | |
| January | 1.0 | 13.5 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 6.8 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 34.2 |
| February | 30.8 | 2.4 | 5.4 | 17.5 | 8.0 | 2.2 | 10.0 | 76.3 |
| March | r6.7 | 4.0 | 20.8 | 12.2 | 26.5 | 4.9 | 6.5 | r81.5 |
| April | 15.2 | 3.7 | 27.3 | 10.2 | 7.9 | 4.8 | 7.5 | 76.5 |
| <i>Twelve months ended—</i> | | | | | | | | |
| April | 1985 | 233.5 | 134.2 | 152.6 | 208.0 | 107.7 | 183.4 | 302.5 |
| | 1986 | 352.4 | 117.3 | 96.2 | 184.9 | 162.0 | 153.1 | 231.2 |
| | 1987 | 164.5 | 167.4 | 219.7 | 221.7 | 149.5 | 53.0 | 263.3 |
| December | 1984 | 131.1 | 193.2 | 144.8 | 249.3 | 116.3 | 150.6 | 322.1 |
| | 1985 | 233.8 | 106.4 | 107.3 | 189.4 | 175.3 | 180.4 | 263.7 |
| | 1986 | 362.0 | 179.4 | 187.4 | 205.3 | 117.7 | 57.6 | 281.4 |

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST
('000)

| Period | N.S.W. | Vic. | Qld | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | Aust. (a) |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-----------|
| 1986 | | | | | | | |
| March | 37.3 | 12.2 | 3.4 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 0.8 | 63.1 |
| April | 119.3 | 19.6 | 57.2 | 1.6 | 20.7 | 0.3 | 221.1 |
| May | 91.5 | 69.0 | 13.5 | 19.9 | 18.2 | 7.0 | 221.8 |
| June | 54.4 | 12.2 | 3.9 | 0.7 | 3.2 | 8.0 | 83.5 |
| July | 59.9 | 20.5 | 19.9 | 3.6 | 12.7 | 2.6 | 119.9 |
| August | 12.6 | 11.8 | 7.4 | 2.9 | 31.7 | 0.6 | 67.3 |
| September | 33.6 | 29.5 | 18.9 | 3.1 | 13.4 | 1.5 | 102.7 |
| October | 37.7 | 27.9 | 6.0 | 2.1 | 7.3 | 1.7 | 84.2 |
| November | 45.2 | 81.1 | 16.5 | 4.1 | 11.1 | 3.2 | 162.2 |
| December | 19.4 | 86.4 | 5.3 | 3.4 | 13.4 | 0.8 | 128.8 |
| 1987 | | | | | | | |
| January | 12.7 | 3.5 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 14.4 | 0.4 | 34.2 |
| February | 44.6 | 19.6 | 2.8 | 0.3 | 4.2 | 0.3 | 76.3 |
| March | r41.2 | 20.9 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 11.3 | 1.3 | r81.5 |
| April | 51.6 | 11.0 | 3.3 | 1.5 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 76.5 |
| <i>Twelve months ended—</i> | | | | | | | |
| April | 1985 | 594.9 | 196.6 | 353.6 | 23.1 | 93.4 | 33.2 |
| | 1986 | 509.8 | 350.0 | 255.6 | 23.3 | 101.1 | 21.9 |
| | 1987 | 504.4 | 393.3 | 101.3 | 44.4 | 144.8 | 29.5 |
| December | 1984 | 660.6 | 187.5 | 236.5 | 25.5 | 119.2 | 50.5 |
| | 1985 | 398.7 | 355.9 | 336.2 | 22.5 | 92.9 | 20.7 |
| | 1986 | 598.8 | 381.8 | 173.4 | 46.2 | 143.1 | 29.2 |

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

| Period | Manufacturing | | | | | | | | All industries | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------|---|-------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----|----------------|--|
| | Mining | | Metal products, machinery and equipment | Other | Construction | Transport and storage; Communication | Other industries (b) | | | |
| | Coal | Other | | | | | | | | |
| 1984 | 3,913 | 3,745 | 343 | 416 | 503 | 372 | 91 | 248 | | |
| 1985 | 6,898 | 1,931 | 255 | 312 | 666 | 432 | 71 | 228 | | |
| 1986 | 10,773 | 3,328 | 445 | 328 | 458 | 135 | 72 | 242 | | |
| <i>Twelve months ended—</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>1985</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 6,929 | 2,514 | 363 | 346 | 435 | 449 | 84 | 247 | | |
| <i>1986</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| April | 10,456 | 2,084 | 226 | 301 | 628 | 363 | 61 | 231 | | |
| May | 10,900 | 2,388 | 361 | 299 | 704 | 382 | 63 | 253 | | |
| June | 10,751 | 2,867 | 374 | 309 | 688 | 400 | 60 | 256 | | |
| July | 11,085 | 3,182 | 382 | 308 | 627 | 384 | 60 | 257 | | |
| August | 11,038 | 3,454 | 374 | 244 | 561 | 345 | 58 | 244 | | |
| September | 10,479 | 3,553 | 371 | 302 | 466 | 336 | 59 | 243 | | |
| October | 10,561 | 3,562 | 407 | 296 | 439 | 276 | 38 | 225 | | |
| November | 10,950 | 3,142 | 441 | 312 | 437 | 143 | 55 | 228 | | |
| December | 10,773 | 3,328 | 445 | 328 | 458 | 135 | 72 | 242 | | |
| <i>1987</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 10,758 | 3,600 | 451 | 330 | 467 | 135 | 72 | 245 | | |
| February | 9,168 | 3,567 | 456 | 353 | 477 | 131 | 70 | 237 | | |
| March | 8,904 | 3,589 | 478 | 356 | 567 | 123 | 70 | 240 | | |
| April | 4,881 | 3,244 | 527 | 353 | 581 | 123 | 67 | 215 | | |

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

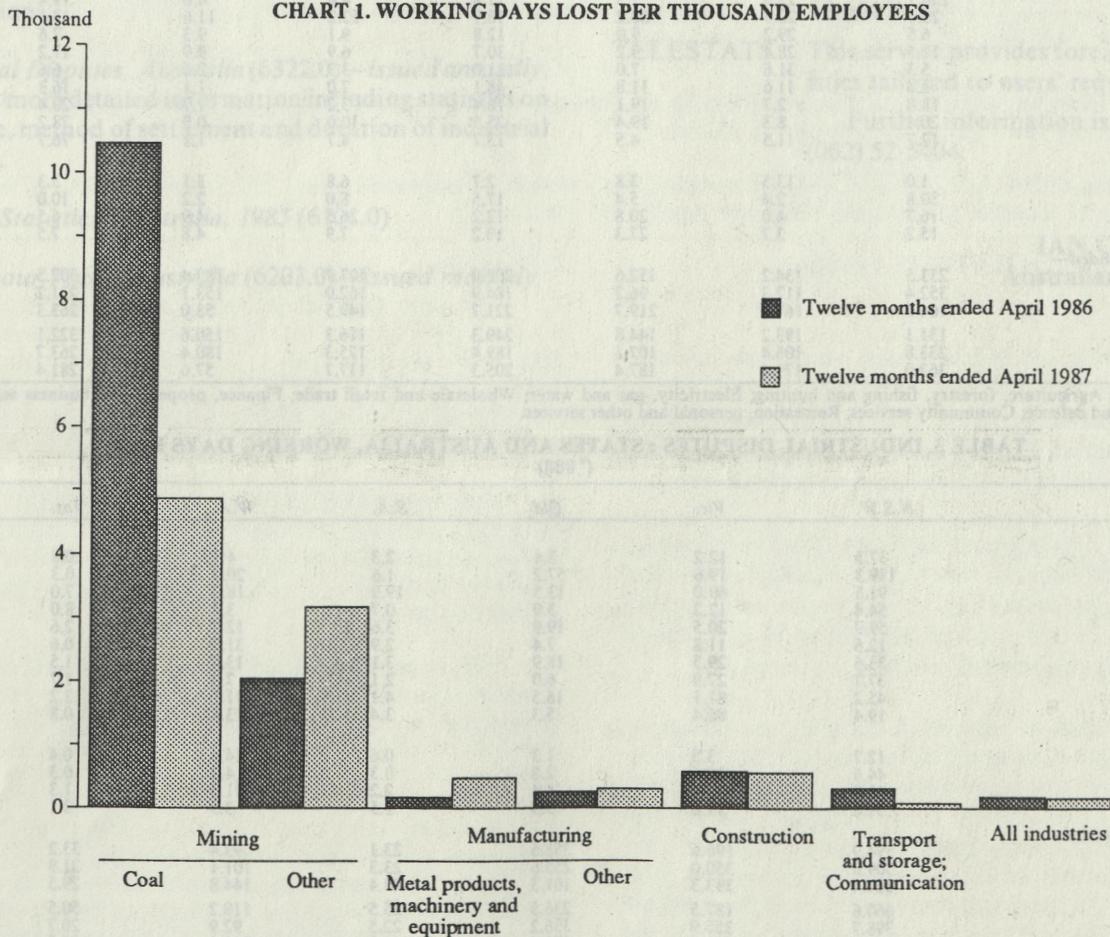


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

| <i>Period</i> | <i>N.S.W.</i> | <i>Vic.</i> | <i>Qld</i> | <i>S.A.</i> | <i>W.A.</i> | <i>Tas.</i> | <i>Aust.(b)</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1984 | 357 | 132 | 302 | 55 | 256 | 350 | 248 |
| 1985 | 209 | 236 | 411 | 47 | 187 | 138 | 228 |
| 1986 | 304 | 240 | 207 | 95 | 272 | 190 | 242 |
| <i>Twelve months ended—</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>1985</i> | | | | | | | |
| April | 318 | 136 | 444 | 50 | 196 | 227 | 247 |
| <i>1986</i> | | | | | | | |
| April | 264 | 227 | 309 | 49 | 199 | 145 | 231 |
| May | 296 | 253 | 293 | 87 | 214 | 168 | 253 |
| June | 309 | 245 | 297 | 86 | 213 | 217 | 256 |
| July | 321 | 233 | 306 | 89 | 211 | 198 | 257 |
| August | 305 | 226 | 259 | 86 | 245 | 171 | 244 |
| September | 303 | 239 | 223 | 87 | 257 | 176 | 243 |
| October | 299 | 180 | 221 | 85 | 256 | 179 | 225 |
| November | 306 | 191 | 206 | 92 | 253 | 194 | 228 |
| December | 304 | 240 | 207 | 95 | 272 | 190 | 242 |
| <i>1987</i> | | | | | | | |
| January | 307 | 239 | 208 | 95 | 295 | 186 | 245 |
| February | 288 | 247 | 187 | 92 | r291 | 176 | 237 |
| March | r290 | 252 | 186 | 91 | 303 | r179 | 240 |
| April | 255 | 246 | 121 | 91 | 271 | 190 | 215 |

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES